

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 109972

NODIS

FOL USBERLIN 1013 SENT ACTION SECSTATE APR 27, 1978 REPEATED
TO YOU QUOTE

S E C R E T USBERLIN 1013

NODIS

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC GE GW US

SUBJ: PRISONER EXCHANGE

REFS: (A) BONN 7620, (B) STATE 106671, (C) STATE 105823,
(D) STATE 102398

1. FOLLOWING IS OUR PLANNING FOR POSSIBLE PRISONER EXCHANGE
APRIL 30 INCLUDING SOME QUESTIONS ON WHICH WE NEED ANSWERS
FROM DEPARTMENT. MISOFF DUTY OFFICER (CLUNAN) PLANS MEET
MRS. VAN NORMAN UPON ARRIVAL APRIL 29 AND TAKE HER TO HOTEL

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HAGEN. WOULD APPRECIATE FLIGHT DETAILS AND SOME IDENTI-
FYING DATA. CLUNAN WILL PLAN TO MEET HER IN BAGGAGE CLAIM
AREA (WHICH AT TEGEL FOLLOWS DIRECTLY FROM END OF AIRCRAFT
RAMP). WE WILL PROVIDE MISSION CAR TO BRING MRS. VAN NORMAN
TO MISSION AT TIME OF EXCHANGE AND WILL OFFER SAME
VEHICLE TO PERMIT MRS. VAN NORMAN AND SON TO PROCEED TO
TEGEL AFTER EXCHANGE, IF THEY SO DESIRE.

2. MISSION LEGAL ADVISER (SURENA) PLANS MEET VOGEL, THOMPSON, SMITH AND PFUND AT TEGEL ON APRIL 30 UPON FINAL ADVICE RE FLIGHT TIMING. IF DEPARTMENT WISHES US TO ARRANGE IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE FROM AIRPORT, OR USE OF SPECIAL EXIT WHICH WOULD NOT PERMIT PRESS TO GET AT PARTY, WE MUST SOLICIT HELP OF FRENCH PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISER WHO DIRECTS POLICE AT AIRPORT. WE BELIEVE THAT WE CAN RELY ON DISCRETION OF FRENCH PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISER, A VETERAN POLICE OFFICER, AND ARE CONFIDENT HE WOULD ISSUE APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS TO POLICE TO PERMIT PARTY TO EXIT BY SPECIAL STAIRCASE. ONE MEMBER OF PARTY COULD THEN IDENTIFY LUGGAGE IN CLAIMS AREA. WE ALSO NOTE THAT IF BAGS ARE CHECKED THROUGH DIRECTLY FROM US, PASSAGE THROUGH CUSTOMS TAKES PLACE AT TEGEL RATHER THAN FRANKFURT OR HAMBURG. AGAIN WITH ASSISTANCE OF FRENCH PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISER WE COULD PROBABLY DO AWAY WITH THIS FORMALITY. PLEASE ADVISE IF THOMPSON IS CARRYING UNUSUALLY LARGE AMOUNT OF EXCESS BAGGAGE WHICH MIGHT REQUIRE ADDITIONAL CAR, AND LET US KNOW SOONEST IF WE MAY BREAK NODIS REQUIREMENT TO CUT FRENCH IN TO THIS EXTENT.

3. WITH RESPECT TO MRS. VOGEL'S ENTRY WITH VAN NORMAN AT INVALIDENSTRASSE WE PLAN SEND PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISER HUMPHREY IN MISSION CAR TO CROSSING POINT TO MEET PARTY. HE WOULD PLAN ENTER MRS. VOGEL'S CAR AT THIS THAT POINT. IF,
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FOR ANY REASON, MRS. VOGEL PREFERS TO USE MISSION TRANSPORTATION RATHER THAN GDR-PLATED PRIVATE AUTOMOBILE, TRANSFER COULD BE MADE TO US MISSION CAR AT INVALIDENSTRASSE AND POLICE, WHO ARE ALWAYS ON DUTY THERE, COULD BE ASKED TO LOOK AFTER MRS. VOGEL'S CAR UNTIL SHE RETURNED TO IT. HUMPHREY WILL IDENTIFY HIMSELF TO POLICE AS US PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISER AT CHECKPOINT AND WE ANTICIPATE THAT POLICE WILL BE PREPARED TO TAKE ANY ACTION REQUIRED BY CIRCUMSTANCES AT MR. HUMPHREY'S DIRECTION.

4. THREE GROUPS WOULD RENDEZVOUS AT US HEADQUARTERS (BUILDING 1) IN OFFICE USED BY US PROTOCOL OFFICER ON GROUND FLOOR JUST INSIDE FRONT DOOR. TO PREVENT TIME-CONSUMING DELAYS AT MISSION GATES, WE ARE ASKING USCOB TO DESIGNATE AN OFFICER TO BE ON HAND TO INSTRUCT THE (GERMAN) LABOR SERVICE GUARDS AT THE OUTER GATES AND THE US ARMY ENLISTED MEN TO SECURE US HEADQUARTERS HERE. DOES DEPARTMENT DESIRE PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE OF EXCHANGE? IF SO, WE WILL HAVE TO ALERT A US ARMY PHOTOGRAPHER TO BE ON HAND ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT NEED TO TELL HIM IN ADVANCE WHY WE HAVE ASKED FOR HIM.

5. AFTER EXCHANGE HAS TAKEN PLACE, A MISSION OFFICER WILL BE PREPARED TO ACCOMPANY BOTH VAN NORMANS BACK TO TEGEL IF THEY WISH AND PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISER HUMPHREY WILL BE PREPARED TO ACCOMPANY VOGELS AND THOMPSON TO INVALIDENSTRASSE OR OTHER CROSSING POINT INTO EAST BERLIN OR GDR IF VOGEL DESIRES.

6. RE PRESS, WE WILL CONTINUE TO REFER ALL INQUIRIES UNTIL EXCHANGE TAKES PLACE TO WASHINGTON. HOWEVER, IF PRESS DOES GET WIND OF TIMING AND PLACE OF EXCHANGE, WE CAN EXPECT TO RECEIVE URGENT QUESTIONS AND SPRINGER PRESS IN PARTICULAR IS LIKELY TO COVER CROSSING POINTS INTO EAST BERLIN ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES. CBS BONN HAS ALREADY CONTACTED USMISSION PRESS OFFICER LATHAM ASKING WHETHER
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AND WHERE THEY SHOULD SEND A CAMERA CREW TO COVER EXCHANGE THIS WEEKEND. LATHAM FEIGNED IGNORANCE AND WILL CONTINUE ON THAT LINE. WE RECOMMEND, HOWEVER, THAT LATHAM ISSUE STATEMENT ROUGHLY THIRTY MINUTES AFTER EXCHANGE HAS TAKEN PLACE STATING THAT THE EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE, NAMING THE EXCHANGEES, AND GIVING THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE EXCHANGE AND THE TRAVEL PLANS OF THE EXCHANGEES. HE WOULD REFER ALL OTHER QUESTIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT. PRESS WILL VERY LIKELY BE ANXIOUS TO INTERVIEW THOMPSON AND VAN NORMAN. IN EVENT EITHER OF THESE PERSONS WISHES TO SPEAK TO PRESS, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD NOT OFFER THE MISSION AS VENUE, OR PROVIDE FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT VAN NORMAN IS AN AMERICAN FREE TO DO AS HE LIKES AFTER THE EXCHANGE AND IF HE WISHES TO SEE THE PRESS AT A PLACE OF HIS CHOOSING, WE WOULD NOT RPT NOT DO MORE THAN TELL HIM HE IS FREE DO SO IF HE WISHES. WE WILL NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES ALLOW PRESS TO GAIN ACCESS TO US HEADQUARTERS WHILE THE DIFFERENT GROUPS ARE IN THE BUILDING. IF WE FIND JOURNALISTS AT THE OUTER GATES AND HERR VOGEL DOES NOT WISH TO SEE THEM, WE WILL SUGGEST THAT THE VOGEL PARTY EXIST BY OUR REAR GATE. IN EVENT DEPARTMENT APPROVES THE IDEA OF PRESS STATEMENT BEING ISSUED BY MISSION, MAY WE MENTION MRS. VOGEL'S ROLE IN BRINGING VAN NORMAN TO WEST BERLIN?

7. US POLITICAL ADVISER DAVIS WILL BE ON HAND FOR EXCHANGES ASSUMING IT TAKES PLACE APRIL 30. IN EVENT DEPARTMENT WISHES TELEPHONE MISSION ON APRIL 28 AND 29 WHEN DAVIS WILL BE OUT OF TOWN, CALL SHOULD GO TO POLITICAL SECTION CHIEF SEMLER (OFFICE 819-7644, HOME PHONE 801-1762, OR CONTACT US ARMY OPERATOR FOR RED LINE OPERATOR 18). MISSION DUTY OFFICER IS JAMES L. CLUNAN (OFFICE PHONE 819-7565). MINISTER WILL BE BACK EARLY
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MORNING MAY 1.

8. DEPARTMENT REQUESTED REPEAT BONN, WITH WHICH WE HAVE
BEEN IN INFORMAL CONTACT ON MODALITIES OF EXCHANGE.
GEORGE UNQUOTE VANCE

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